

# State Representative Cleo Duncan House District 67

## Legislative Survey



Dear Citizen,

Indiana's 115<sup>th</sup> General Assembly has already begun and I am putting all my effort into helping craft proactive and innovative legislation. I would like to take this time to thank you for allowing me to represent you and ask for your assistance in helping me to better understand the concerns of citizens across Decatur, Franklin, Ripley, and Rush Counties.

Included in my newsletter you will find my legislative survey, which I hope you will take the time to complete. Also in the newsletter, you will find information on legislative initiatives that House Republicans hope to accomplish over the course of the upcoming session. Topics addressed in our 12-point plan include continuing to improve Indiana's economic landscape, supporting a balanced state budget without gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers, and increasing educational opportunities for Hoosier children.

House legislators have returned with renewed focus on providing forward thinking initiatives and continued commitment to listening to the concerns of Hoosiers. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Statehouse.

Sincerely,

Cleo Duncan



*Representative  
Duncan works with  
Legislative staff to  
prepare for the  
upcoming 2007  
session.*

### How to Contact State Rep. Cleo Duncan

If you have a question  
regarding state  
government, there are  
three ways you can  
contact Rep. Cleo Duncan:

#### Mail

State Rep. Cleo Duncan  
200 W. Washington  
Room 401  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

#### Telephone

(800) 382-9841

#### E-mail

H67@in.gov

### Fill Out This Survey Online!

Visit my website at  
**[www.in.gov/h67](http://www.in.gov/h67)**  
to complete this survey and send me  
additional comments.

# 12 Point Plan for Indiana's Progress

1. **Permanently Eliminate Taxpayer Funded Lifetime Healthcare Benefits** for House Members through legislation to be introduced in the 2007 legislative session. Last year, Republican Leader Brian Bosma eliminated the benefit administratively.
2. **Balance the 2008-09 State Budget** with no general tax increases, accounting gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers to artificially balance Indiana's books.
3. **Eliminate Partisan Gerrymandering** of Indiana's legislative and congressional districts for political gain by the party in control of the Indiana House at the end of each decade.
4. **Provide for Indiana's Energy Needs** with a focus on 'Hoosier Homegrown Energy' by making bio-diesel and ethanol more available to consumers, thus reducing the reliance on imported oil.
5. **Reform the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)** by providing a 30-minute guarantee at the BMV and other measures to improve service and efficiency.
6. **Honor and Support Hoosier Veterans and Active Military** by increasing financial assistance to those who are serving today and their families, and honoring veterans for their service.
7. **Empower Indiana Schools** by providing more resources, more flexibility and more incentives for schools, teachers, parents, and students.
8. **Crack Down on Illegal Immigration** by broadening State Police powers to enforce federal immigration laws and ensuring that state benefits are awarded only to legal Indiana residents.
9. **Expand our Job Creation Success** and promote job growth in the small business sector where 75% of Hoosier jobs are created.
10. **Get Tough on Crime** by requiring violent felons to serve at least

85% of their sentence, protecting children from

Internet sexual predators, requiring federal background checks on caregivers of the elderly, and protecting all Hoosiers from identity theft, violent offenders, and meth dealers.

11. **Help Access Affordable Healthcare** with common sense market based solutions like providing tax credits for Worksite Health Programs, a Health Insurance Premium Deduction, and allowing coverage by a parents policy until the age of 24.

12. **Let Hoosiers Speak on Traditional Marriage** by voting in the 115<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on SJR7 – the amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman – and placing SJR7 on a referendum ballot for Indiana voters to consider in November of 2008.

## House Republicans Continue to Support a Balanced State Budget

During the 114<sup>th</sup> Indiana General Assembly, House Republicans created a biennial budget that was balanced without any general state tax increases, accounting gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers. The fiscal responsibility put forth by House legislators finally moved Indiana back in the black, ending a decade of operating on a structural deficit.

In order to avoid the projected deficit of \$131 million, state spending was increased by only 2%. As a result of House legislators fiscal responsibility, Indiana's current budget reported a surplus of \$371 million when the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006.

Thanks to the leanest budget Indiana has seen in 55 years, the state was able to repay \$500 million of the debt owed to Indiana K-12 schools, cities and towns, and universities. In addition, statewide school funding was increased by an average of 2.5% per year or \$272.6 million for the biennium, which amounts to nearly \$200 more per student. House Republicans also increased Medicaid spending by 5% each of the two years.

House legislators budget efforts also provided additional property tax relief for Hoosier homeowners, resulting in an average net property tax rate that actually dropped by 1.1% in 2006. This property tax cut was the first in decades, preventing the average net property tax rate from increasing by 5% to 7%.

Over the past two years, House legislators worked to create a budget that was fiscally responsible, yet still served the needs of Hoosiers. The Republican-led efforts to create one of the most efficient state budgets in generations will continue in the 2007 legislative session.



*Representative Duncan with Governor Daniels at the Honda announcement in Greensburg.*